Regional Bahá'í Council Western Provinces
Annual Report 164 BE; 21st March 2007 to 20th March 2008

This report covers activities realized by the Regional Bahá'í Council during the 164 BE. In its second year of operation, the Regional Bahá'í Council for the Western Provinces centred attention on achieving the goals of the Five Year Plan – specifically, assisting Cluster Coordination Committees to start implementation of activities in three-month cycle irrespective of their category. To this end, the letter of the International Teaching Centre dated 30 September 2007 together with records from Yaoundé Institutional meeting of 24th & 25th November 2007 became our working documents. The Council this year took initiative in learning ways of collecting statistics and monitoring growth in prioritized clusters.

1. **Meetings of the Regional Bahá'í Council:** During the above mentioned period, the Regional Bahá'í Council held seven meetings. In one of these meeting the Council adopted an administrative budget of three hundred thousand (300,000) CFA Frs. Also officers of the Regional Bahá'í Council were elected to run the bureau for 164 BE as follows; Mr. Peter Njenke – coordinator, Mr. Isaac Leh – Secretary and Ms. Stella Siri Fuh – Treasurer. The other members of the Council include: - Mrs. Arrah Rosaline, Mr. Noah Bang Wong, Mrs. Manal Gillett and Mr. Kully Andreas. The Regional Bahá'í Council amongst other items proposed periodical plans to Cluster Coordination Committees, made an annual calendar of meetings and a scheduled of its activities in the region.

2. **Deepening during meeting sessions:** The Regional Bahá'í Council continued to deepen on Reflections on Growth from Number 15 to 18. Other deepening materials included extracts from *Consultation the Art of Decision Making* and *The Institution of the Continental Boards of Counsellors*. The *Ridván 2007 Message* and the Letter on Settling Pioneer at the International Level and at the home front to win the goal of establishing 1,500 Intensive Programmes of Growths in this Five Year Plan together with a letter on Bahá'í Electoral Process was received from the Universal House of Justice through the National Spiritual Assembly and carefully studied.

3. **Re-appointment of Regional Bahá'í Council and Study of Mandate:** In a spirit of collaboration with the National Spiritual Assembly, the Regional Bahá'í Council organized meetings in which a nomination list in preparation for appointing member of Regional Bahá'í Council was made and sent to the National Spiritual Assembly for appointment. After the Regional Bahá'í Councils was appointed in November 2007, the National Spiritual Assembly gave a mandate to the Councils. Our mandate was studied at a session of our meeting in the presence of two representatives of the National Spiritual Assembly; Mr. Kamran Frooghi and Mr. Guebe Francois. Their participation helped the Council members to improve on their understanding of the guidance the National Assembly offered therein.

4. **Institutional Meeting – Mbankolo, Yaoundé: S**ix members of our Regional Bahá'í Council took part in the Institutional Meeting which the National Spiritual Assembly organized on the 24th and 25th November 2007. Mrs. Joan Lincoln, Counsellor member of the International Teaching Centre, together with two other Counsellors (Mr. Tiati A Zock and Mr. Fezoure Clement) were present. In this Institutional Meeting, there were joint consultation meetings amongst Regional Bahá'í Council, National Spiritual Assembly and the Counsellors. During this meeting Mrs. Joan Lincoln gave petals of love which she brought from the Bahá'í World Centre to the Regional Bahá'í Council.

5. **Training of statistical officers:** This year, cluster statistical officers were appointed in six of our priority clusters namely (Fako, Kumba, Mezam, Ngoketunjia, Mamfe/Ejaghma and Upper Banyang clusters). The training was immediately organized for them and it was executed by the Regional Institute Coordinator, Mr. Gideon Tem.

6. **Launching of three month cycles of activities in certain clusters:** The Regional Bahá'í Council has been successful in ensuring that three month cycles of activities are implemented in five of our prioritized clusters; namely Fako, Kumba, Mezam, Ngoketunjia and Mamfe/Ejagham clusters.

Efforts are being made to emulate this mode of functioning in the rest of the clusters within the region.

7. Movement of prioritized clusters

a. Upgrade of Mamfe/Ejagham cluster: This year Mamfe/Ejagham cluster moved from category C to category B. The friends in this cluster received this news with joy and were determined to work harder and become an Intensive Programmes of Growth in April 2008.

b. Kumba, Mezam and Ngoketunjia clusters: With the introduction of three month cycles of activities in these clusters some quantitative and qualitative changes are observed. Kumba cluster immediately recorded high enrolment in its first three month cycle, while Mezam cluster is rapidly developing Human Resources to have thirty tutors and become Intensive Programmes of Growth by April 2008. In Ngoketunjia the two home front pioneers who have settled there are mobilizing the two strong communities of Ndop and Baba 1 for greater services to the Faith. It is expected that with the increasing volume of activities in these clusters, they will be moved to launch Intensive Programmes of Growth by April 2008. However their Cluster Coordination Committees will be confirming the practicability of this date to the institutions.

c. Upper Banyang: This cluster desperately needs the services of a devoted home front pioneer or a team of pioneers who can assist with activities and upgrade the cluster to the status of an Intensive Programmes of Growth by 2009. The Regional Bahá'í Council has tried to move tutors from Mamfe to assist the lone tutor in this cluster so as to boost activities but very little success has been noted.

8. Settling Home Front Pioneers in the Regions: In 164 BE, this region is blessed with the services of three home front pioneers; the one in Kumba cluster, Mr. William Djoulde comes from Yaoundé/Soa cluster with lots of experiences. He has been very instrumental in teaching during the first three month cycle of activities which recorded 60 declarations in the expansion phase. A team of two home front pioneers has been settled in Ngoketunjia cluster; both Mr. Mbonde Peter Ngando and Mr. Mohmbah Emmanuel Yakubu are from Fako cluster. In this way the region has raised two home front pioneers who are relocated in other clusters and joyously received one from a different region.

9. Trips of Regional Bahá'í Council Members to Meet With Some Clusters and Communities:

a. Ebonemin: Mrs. Arrah Rosaline and Mr. Isaac Leh visited Ebonemin on 4th November 2007 to clarify the vision and the new way in which the Faith operates in present time. This meeting was very successful as the friends reflected on what they can do in terms of core activities and teaching.

b. Kumba: Mr. Isaac Leh had a very good two-day meeting with the Cluster Coordination Committee of Kumba, the Institute Coordinator and Mr. William Djoulde, the pioneer in this cluster. The trip which was realized on 19th December 2007 had for its purpose the building of capacity in the earmarked friends serving in these institutions.

c. Ngoketunjia: Mrs. Manal Gillett and Mr. Njenke Peter made a trip to Ngoketunjia for a vision conference to familiarize the friends with the ideas of the institutional meeting held in Yaoundé on the 24th and 25th November 2007 as none of the friends from this cluster took part in this institutional meeting despite invitations letters circulated by the National Assembly.

On Saturday, 2nd February 2008, Mr. Mbah Thomas and Isaac Leh arrived Baba 1 to mobilize the cluster institutions and introduce the new pioneers; Mr. Mbonde Peter Ngando and Mr. Mohmbah Emmanuel Yakubu to the local authorities. Since Mohmbah Emmanuel has just moved to join Peter Mbonde Ngando to make a team of two home front pioneers in Ngoketunjia cluster, we recommended and he accepted to settle in Ndop for Peter Mbonde

Ngando had taken residence in Baba 1. The installation was very good as we met with the Fon of Ndop and three quarter-heads in both Baba 1 and Ndop.

d. Upper Banyang: on the 10th Feb 2008 Mr. Noah Bang Wong and Miss. Siri Nkebiwe went to Upper Banyang cluster and met with 8 adult Bahá'ís and about 10 children from 2 communities. The objective of this visit was to introduce three-month cycle of activities in this cluster. In their consultations, they used the Message of 30 September 2007 and Reflections on Growth number 13 which is based on using team teachings to move the cluster to higher category. The friends agreed to hold a Cluster Reflection Meeting in a month's time i.e. by the 10th of March 2008.

10. Collaboration with other Institutions:

a. National Spiritual Assembly and the Regional Bahá'í Council: The National Spiritual Assembly and the Regional Bahá'í Council continued to collaborate for greater services to the Faith The National Assembly sent two of its members to consult with the Council on issues of the new Mandate which was given to Regional Bahá'í Council. In the Institutional Meeting of Mbankolo Yaoundé, joined consultative meetings were held amongst Regional Bahá'í Council, National Spiritual Assembly and Counsellors. More of this collaboration is felt on the numerous correspondences which the Council constantly received from the National Assembly throughout the year.

b. Cluster Coordination Committees: The appointment and functioning of Coordination Committees have been as a result of working in partnership with other institutions. The Council at this nascent stage has requested some members to function like liaison persons between the Committee and the Council.

c. Participation at the National Conventions: All Unit Conventions in this region elected their delegates for the National Convention; however, 21 out of 25 elected delegates in the region attended the National convention. Again in preparation for next year's National Convention, 13 Unit conventions are allotted to the Western Provinces Region with a total of 25 delegates to be elected and encouraged to attend the National convention. Reports reaching the office state that 12 Unit conventions have elected 24 delegates. The only Unit convention which has not been held is that of Dschang where one delegate is supposed to be elected.

d. Teaching Subvention Funds: One of the fruits of this collaboration is the increase in responsibility we noticed after the Institutional meeting. With this collaboration the Council learnt of the Teaching Subvention Fund which exists with Counsellors and Regional Bahá'í Council can make good use thereof. On 9th January 2008 Regional Bahá'í Council received from the Counsellor, Mr. Tiati A Zock, the first advance of three hundred thousand (300,000) CFA Frs which some clusters benefited from it to enthusiastically track their fist three-month cycle of activities.

e. Elected Local Spiritual Assemblies: In this region 25 Local Spiritual Assemblies were elected as at Ridván 164 BE. The Regional Bahá'í Council has been working with coordination committees to assist these Local Assemblies rise to a certain degree of functional level – contributing to the funds and meeting regularly.

11. Core Activities: (Strength of the Training Institute in the Region) the Regional Bahá'í Council expects that the Regional Institute Coordinator, Mr. Gideon Tem will offer a comprehensive report on this subject.

a. Sequence of Courses: Some clusters in the region like Kumba and Mezam organized Intensive Institute Campaigns to rapidly develop their human resources. This was a solution to the need which they identified in order to reach status of an Intensive Programmes of Growth in a short time. The rest of the clusters continued mostly with study circles and this has been taking a long time to train tutors, practically the same as marking time.

b. Children Classes: The education and training of children continues to be an activity of significance in all the clusters within the region. The only difficulty is to systematize, grade and offer this training at regular interval.

c. Junior Youth Groups: Animators of Junior Youth Groups were trained in Fako, Kumba and Mezam clusters. Coordinators of Junior Youth activities were likewise appointed in these clusters. Presently, with the settlement of two home front pioneers and the relocation of the Bang Wongs in Mamfe, Ngoketunjia and Mamfe/Ejagham clusters have respectively been opened to this activity.

d. Devotional Meetings: More and more Bahá'ís together with their friends have collectively been praying in various locations around the region. As friends continue to communally worship God, more opportunities will be opened and we shall be led to greater successes in teaching.

e. Enrolment: During this year some cluster sent their lists of newly enrolled believers directly to the National Spiritual Assembly for issuing membership cards. However, the number of declarations the Regional Bahá'í Council could lay hand on are indicated in the table below.

S.N.	Names of Clusters	Declaration in 5 months
1	Fako	43
2	Kumba	66
3	Mezam	13
4	Ngoketunjia	18
5	Mamfe/Ejagham	8
6	Upper Banyang	4
	Total	152

f. Pyramid of Human Resources: The development of Human Resources in this region is too slow. Nevertheless, the Regional Council is building up mechanisms for collecting immaculate statistics and it is expected that sooner we shall have a true picture of our clusters. One cannot also rule out the point of massive exodus in the region. However, the table below shows some statistics of Human Resources.

Names of Clusters	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5	Book 6	Book 7
Fako	133	97	78	55	24	37	29
Kumba	35	26	24	20	06	12	13
Mezam	85	49	40	28	24	23	17
Ngoketunjia	38	22	19	15	2	12	12
Mamfe/Ejagham	38	28	24	22	3	17	14
Upper Banyang	23	12	10	4	0	1	1
Total as of this year 164 BE	**352**	**234**	**195**	**144**	**59**	**102**	**86**
Situation as of last year 163	**360**	**234**	**190**	**122**	**42**	**101**	**86**

12. Challenges of the Regional Bahá'í Council: Regional Bahá'í Council finds it very difficult to start activities in four of its prioritized clusters namely; Bafoussam, Dschang, Nkambe and Upper Banyang**.** Communication too with the friends in these areas too is a heavy task. The main difficulty is that individual initiative is too low, tutors have neither been trained nor settled there and so we only need to raise pioneers to solve most of our problems in such clusters.

With Warmest Naw Rúz Love,

The Regional Bahá'í Council Western Provinces